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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

(A-570-849)

Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Circumvention Inquiry on Antidumping Duty Order

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce

DATES: Effective Date: (Insert date of publication in the Federal Register.)

SUMMARY: In response to a request from Nucor Corporation and SSAB Enterprises LLC (collectively "Domestic Producers"), the Department of Commerce ("Department") is initiating a circumvention inquiry, pursuant to section 781(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the "Act"), to determine whether certain imports of certain cut-to-length carbon steel plate ("CTL plate") are circumventing the antidumping duty order on CTL plate from the People's Republic of China ("PRC").<sup>1</sup>

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patrick O'Connor or Thomas Martin, AD/CVD Operations, Office IV, Enforcement & Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-0989, and (202) 482-3936, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On June 17, 2015, Domestic Producers requested that the Department make a final circumvention ruling within 45 days pursuant to 19 CFR 351.225(c)(2) and (d) with respect to CTL plate from the PRC with small amounts of any alloying elements added so as to classify the

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<sup>1</sup> See Suspension Agreement on Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate From the People's Republic of China; Termination of Suspension Agreement and Notice of Antidumping Duty Order, 68 FR 60081 (October 21, 2003) ("Order").

steel as alloy steel under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (“HTSUS”), regardless of exporter or importer.<sup>2</sup> As a result of further clarification and comments regarding Domestic Producers’ allegation, we extended the deadline to make a final ruling or initiate a circumvention inquiry until February 10, 2016.<sup>3</sup>

Domestic Producers alleged that producers, exporters and importers are circumventing the Order by adding alloying elements (*i.e.*, making minor alterations) to CTL plate that is otherwise ASTM A36 and A572 commodity-grade steel plate.<sup>4</sup> Domestic Producers provided business proprietary evidence which they believe supports their allegation.<sup>5</sup>

Domestic Producers noted that there is a history of evading the Order, and that the Department has made two separate circumvention determinations with regard to CTL plate from the PRC. In the first determination, the Department found that merchandise produced by Tianjin Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. and merchandise imported by Toyota Tsusho America Inc., regardless of producer or exporter, containing 0.0008 percent or more boron, by weight, and otherwise meeting the description of in-scope merchandise is subject to the Order unless the merchandise meets all of the following requirements: (1) an aluminum level of 0.02 percent or greater, by weight; (2) a ratio of 3.4 to 1 or greater, by weight, of titanium to nitrogen; and (3) a

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<sup>2</sup> Domestic Producers initially filed versions of their request on April 30, 2015 (Business Proprietary) and May 1, 2015 (Public Version), but these submissions were rejected by the Department due to filing deficiencies. See Letter from Robert Bolling to Domestic Producers, “Re: Rejection of Submission- Certain Cut-To-Length Carbon Steel Plate from the People's Republic of China,” dated June 9, 2015 letter.

<sup>3</sup> See Letter from Abdelali Elouaradia to Petitioners, “Re: Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate from the People’s Republic of China: Request for Circumvention Ruling,” dated January 13, 2016. The Department tolled this deadline by four business days. See Memorandum from Ron Lorentzen to The Record, “Tolling of Administrative Deadlines as a Result of the Government Closure during Snowstorm “Jonas,”” dated January 27, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> See 781(c) of the Act; see also Letter from Domestic Producers regarding, “Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate From the People’s Republic of China: Re-submission of Request for Circumvention Ruling,” dated June 17, 2015 (“Domestic Producers’ Request”).

<sup>5</sup> See Memorandum from Thomas Martin to the File, regarding “Anti-Circumvention Inquiry on Certain Cut-To Length Carbon Steel Plate (“CTL plate”), from the People’s Republic of China: Initiation of Antidumping Circumvention Inquiry” with the subject “Memorandum of Business Proprietary Information Accompanying the Notice of Initiation of Antidumping Circumvention Inquiry,” dated concurrently with this notice (“Alloying Elements Circumvention BPI Memorandum”) at Note 1.

hardenability test (*i.e.*, Jominy test) result indicating a boron factor of 1.8 or greater.<sup>6</sup> In the second determination, the Department found “that it is appropriate to consider all plate with at least 0.0008 percent boron content and otherwise meeting the description of the scope to be covered by the order, unless the merchandise also possesses the three distinguishing characteristics referenced above.”<sup>7</sup> The Department also found it appropriate to apply its second determination “on a countrywide basis, given that multiple parties have been found to be circumventing the order using the same general approach (*i.e.*, inclusion of small inconsequential amounts of an alloying element in order to change the tariff classification from non-alloy to alloy steel).”<sup>8</sup>

Domestic Producers contended that PRC producers are now adding other alloying elements, in addition to boron, to otherwise subject CTL plate in order to circumvent the Order.<sup>9</sup> According to Domestic Producers, PRC manufacturers have an incentive to produce the CTL plate at issue to circumvent antidumping duties, and only began adding certain alloying elements in response to the Order and the Department’s prior circumvention findings.<sup>10</sup> Domestic Producers stated that another possible motivation for PRC CTL plate producers to add other alloying elements to their plate, such as chromium, is the PRC government’s cancellation of the Value Added Tax (“VAT”) export rebate for steel with boron added. CTL plate with other

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<sup>6</sup> See Affirmative Final Determination of Circumvention of the Antidumping Duty Order on Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate From the People’s Republic of China, 74 FR 40565 (August 12, 2009) (“Toyota Tsusho Circumvention Final Determination”).

<sup>7</sup> See Affirmative Final Determination of Circumvention of the Antidumping Duty Order on Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate From the People’s Republic of China, 76 FR 50996 (August 17, 2011) (“Wuyang Circumvention Final Determination”).

<sup>8</sup> Id. at 50997.

<sup>9</sup> See Domestic Producers’ Request at 12-15.

<sup>10</sup> Id. at 21-23.

alloys continues to receive the VAT rebate.<sup>11</sup> Domestic Producers submitted news articles to support this contention.<sup>12</sup>

On July 6, 2015, the Department identified various areas of the Domestic Producers' Request that required clarification and therefore issued questions to them.<sup>13</sup> On July 22, 2015, Domestic Producers submitted their responses to those questions.<sup>14</sup> In their responses, Domestic Producers clarified the names and addresses of the exporters and importers of the product that they believe is being produced to circumvent the Order.<sup>15</sup> Regarding the PRC government's cancellation of VAT rebates for steel with boron added, Domestic Producers submitted an official announcement from the PRC government's Ministry of Finance, cancelling the rebate program.<sup>16</sup> Domestic Producers also clarified that 80 percent of the market for commodity-grade carbon steel plate meets ASTM specifications A36 and A572, and that there is no overlap between these specifications and alloy steel specifications that require heat treatment, have a higher tensile strength, and require minimum levels of nickel, chromium, and molybdenum.<sup>17</sup>

Domestic Producers also stated that the exclusion criteria in Toyota Tsusho Circumvention Final Determination is specific to boron's intended purpose of increasing hardenability in steel that has been heat treated, and is not relevant to other alloying elements such as chromium and titanium.<sup>18</sup> They contended that the addition of alloying elements to steel plate is only useful when steel plate is heat treated, which has a substantial cost, and PRC

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<sup>11</sup> Id. at 10-11.

<sup>12</sup> Id. at Exhibits 6-7.

<sup>13</sup> See Letter from Howard Smith, "Re: Certain Cut-To-Length Carbon Steel Plate ("CTL Carbon Plate") from the People's Republic of China ("PRC"): Anti-circumvention Ruling Request," dated July 6, 2015.

<sup>14</sup> See Letter from Domestic Producers' regarding, "Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate From the People's Republic of China: Supplemental Response to Questions Regarding Petitioners' Request for an Anti-Circumvention Ruling," dated July 22, 2015 ("First Supplemental Submission").

<sup>15</sup> See First Supplemental Submission at 5.

<sup>16</sup> Id. at Exhibit 9.

<sup>17</sup> Id. at 6-8.

<sup>18</sup> Id. at 5-6.

producers are not heat treating the steel plate at issue.<sup>19</sup> Domestic Producers claimed that commodity-grade carbon steel plate of ASTM specifications A36 and A572 is not heat-treated.<sup>20</sup> Thus, Domestic Producers contended that there is no reason to produce CTL plate which meets the exclusion criteria in Toyota Tsusho Circumvention Final Determination, but that is not heat treated, other than to circumvent the Order. According to Domestic Producers, it is possible to determine from mill test certificates whether CTL steel plate has been heat treated.<sup>21</sup> Domestic Producers provided relevant business proprietary evidence in their supplemental submission.<sup>22</sup>

On August 5, 2015, Wuyang Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. (“Wuyang”) commented on Domestic Producers’ First Supplemental Submission.<sup>23</sup> Wuyang contended that although Domestic Producers requested the Department to initiate a circumvention inquiry regarding all alloys, Domestic Producers failed to identify any alloy, other than boron, chromium and titanium, which they claim PRC producers add to steel plate, and failed to claim whether adding any of the other alloys can actually have a beneficial effect on steel.<sup>24</sup> Further, Wuyang stated that Domestic Producers should not be permitted to add heat treatment to the three-part test to exclude CTL plate with at least 0.0008 percent boron content from the Order, (the exception established in Toyota Tsusho Circumvention Final Determination), without specifying whether the heat treatment must occur before or after importation, how U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) can administer such a proposed rule, and what alloy ASTM specifications are at issue.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Id. at 12-13, 14, 17, 23-24.

<sup>20</sup> Id. at 14, 17, 23-24.

<sup>21</sup> Id. at 12-13.

<sup>22</sup> See Alloying Elements Circumvention BPI Memorandum at Note 2.

<sup>23</sup> See Letter from Wuyang regarding “Circumvention Inquiry of the Antidumping Duty Order on Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate From China: Comments on Petitioners’ Response to Supplemental Questionnaire regarding Ant-Circumvention Ruling Request” dated August 5, 2015 (“Wuyang Comments”).

<sup>24</sup> See Wuyang Comments at 4, 6.

<sup>25</sup> Id. at 5.

On August 28, 2015, the Department issued another request for information to Domestic Producers,<sup>26</sup> to which they responded on September 11, 2015.<sup>27</sup> In their response, Domestic Producers clarified that their request covers steel plate with any alloy listed in note (f) of Chapter 72 of the HTSUS at levels that would allow the plate to be classified as alloy steel under the HTSUS, that is marketed, priced or sold in the United States as commodity-grade carbon steel plate or made to specifications considered to be carbon steel specifications in the market (*e.g.*, ASTM specifications A36 and A572).<sup>28</sup> For further support of their claim that PRC producers are adding alloying elements other than boron, chromium and titanium to CTL plate to circumvent the Order, Domestic Producers submitted news articles regarding PRC steel overproduction, as well as information regarding a circumvention inquiry in Australia.<sup>29</sup> Domestic Producers claimed that adding any alloys to commodity-grade steel plate has no commercial or metallurgical purpose other than to change the tariff classification of the plate in the HTSUS.<sup>30</sup> Domestic Producers also explicitly stated that the three-part exclusion established in Toyota Tsusho Circumvention Final Determination is no longer a legitimate or reliable exclusion for the Order, and that the Department should analyze boron in the same manner as any other alloy.<sup>31</sup> Domestic Producers also stated that ASTM specification A36 steel would not be classifiable as alloy steel in the HTSUS due to its manganese or silicon content because this ASTM specification has a maximum range for manganese and silicon below the thresholds in

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<sup>26</sup> See Letter from Howard Smith, “Re: Certain Cut-To-Length Carbon Steel Plate (“CTL Carbon Plate”) from the People’s Republic of China (“PRC”): Anti-circumvention Ruling Request,” dated August 28, 2015.

<sup>27</sup> See Letter from Domestic Producers regarding, “Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate From the People's Republic of China: Second Supplemental Response to Questions Regarding Petitioners’ Request for an Anti-Circumvention Ruling,” dated September 11, 2015 (“Second Supplemental Submission”)

<sup>28</sup> See Second Supplemental Submission at 3.

<sup>29</sup> *Id.* at 5-6.

<sup>30</sup> *Id.* at 7-8.

<sup>31</sup> *Id.* at 11.

note (f) of Chapter 72 of the HTSUS.<sup>32</sup> According to Domestic Producers, the application of the circumvention inquiry to ASTM specifications A36 and A572 would be easily enforced by CBP since these specifications are identified in mill test certificates and also marked on the steel itself.<sup>33</sup> However, Domestic Producers also requested that all “commodity-grade” steel plate be covered by the circumvention inquiry in case any ASTM specifications are eliminated, changed or developed in the future.<sup>34</sup>

On November 18, 2015, the Department again issued a request for information to the Domestic Producers requesting clarification of certain previously submitted evidence and additional evidence relating to their allegation.<sup>35</sup> On November 24, 2015, Domestic Producers submitted their response to the request for information.<sup>36</sup> In their response, Domestic Producers provided evidence that is business proprietary.<sup>37</sup>

On January 20, 2016, Domestic Producers submitted additional business proprietary factual support for their request for a circumvention inquiry.<sup>38</sup>

### Scope of the Order

The product covered by the order is certain cut-to-length carbon steel plate from the PRC. Included in this description is hot-rolled iron and non-alloy steel universal mill plates (*i.e.*, flat-rolled products rolled on four faces or in a closed box pass, of a width exceeding 150 mm but not exceeding 1250 mm and of a thickness of not less than 4 mm, not in coils and without patterns in

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<sup>32</sup> Id. at 12-14; see also Alloying Elements Circumvention BPI Memorandum at Note 3.

<sup>33</sup> See Second Supplemental Submission at 15.

<sup>34</sup> Id. at 15.

<sup>35</sup> See Letter from Howard Smith, “Re: Certain Cut-To-Length Carbon Steel Plate (“CTL Carbon Plate”) from the People’s Republic of China (“PRC”): Anti-circumvention Ruling Request,” dated November 18, 2015.

<sup>36</sup> See Letter from Domestic Producers regarding, “Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate From the People’s Republic of China: Third Supplemental Response to Questions Regarding Petitioners’ Request for an Anti-Circumvention Ruling,” dated November 24, 2015 (“Third Supplemental Submission”)

<sup>37</sup> See Alloying Elements Circumvention BPI Memorandum at Note 4.

<sup>38</sup> See Letter from Domestic Producers, “Re: Certain Cut-To-Length Carbon Steel Plate (“CTL Carbon Plate”) from the People’s Republic of China (“PRC”): Request to Issue Final Ruling Or Initiate Anti-Circumvention Inquiry,” dated January 20, 2016 and Alloying Elements Circumvention BPI Memorandum at Note 5.

relief), of rectangular shape, neither clad, plated nor coated with metal, whether or not painted, varnished, or coated with plastics or other nonmetallic substances; and certain iron and non-alloy steel flat-rolled products not in coils, of rectangular shape, hot-rolled, neither clad, plated, nor coated with metal, whether or not painted, varnished, or coated with plastics or other nonmetallic substances, 4.75 mm or more in thickness and of a width which exceeds 150 mm and measures at least twice the thickness. Included as subject merchandise in the order are flat-rolled products of nonrectangular cross-section where such cross-section is achieved subsequent to the rolling process (*i.e.*, products which have been “worked after rolling”)--for example, products which have been bevelled or rounded at the edges. This merchandise is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under item numbers 7208.40.3030, 7208.40.3060, 7208.51.0030, 7208.51.0045, 7208.51.0060, 7208.52.0000, 7208.53.0000, 7208.90.0000, 7210.70.3000, 7210.90.9000, 7211.13.0000, 7211.14.0030, 7211.14.0045, 7211.90.0000, 7212.40.1000, 7212.40.5000, 7212.50.0000. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of the order is dispositive. Specifically excluded from subject merchandise within the scope of the order is grade X-70 steel plate.

#### Merchandise Subject to the Minor Alterations Antidumping Duty Circumvention Inquiry

For the reasons explained below in the “Conclusion” section of this notice, we have not initiated this circumvention inquiry on all of the products described in Domestic Producers’ Request. Rather, this circumvention inquiry covers all CTL plate from the PRC made to ASTM A36 or A572 specifications with levels of chromium or titanium above the levels identified in note (f), “Other alloy steel”, of Chapter 72 of the HTSUS. This inquiry also covers all CTL plate from the PRC made to ASTM A36 or A572 specifications which



contains levels of boron above the levels identified in note (f) of Chapter 72 of the HTSUS and which has not been heat treated to meet tensile and hardness requirements beyond commodity-grade ASTM specifications. This inquiry will cover U.S. imports of all CTL plate from the PRC.

#### Initiation of Minor Alterations Antidumping Duty Circumvention Proceeding

Section 781(c)(1) of the Act provides that the class or kind of merchandise subject to an antidumping duty order shall include articles “altered in form or appearance in minor respects... whether or not included in the same tariff classification.” The Department notes that, while the statute is silent as to what factors to consider in determining whether alterations are properly considered “minor,” the legislative history of this provision indicates there are certain factors which should be considered before reaching a circumvention determination. In conducting a circumvention inquiry under section 781(c) of the Act, the Department has generally relied upon “such criteria as the overall physical characteristics of the merchandise, the expectations of the ultimate users, the use of the merchandise, the channels of marketing and the cost of any modification relative to the total value of the imported products.”<sup>39</sup>

#### Overall Physical Characteristics

According to Domestic Producers, the CTL plate at issue is made in nearly the same manner, made to the same specifications, and has the same physical characteristics as carbon steel plate. Domestic Producers claimed that the effect of the added alloying elements is negligible.<sup>40</sup> Specifically, Domestic Producers claimed that commodity-grade carbon steel

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<sup>39</sup> See S. Rep. No. 71, 100th Cong., 1st Sess. 100 (1987) (“In applying this provision, the Commerce Department should apply practical measurements regarding minor alterations, so that circumvention can be dealt with effectively, even where such alterations to an article technically transform it into a differently designated article.”)

<sup>40</sup> See Domestic Producers’ Request at 16-17.

plate of ASTM specifications A36 and A572 is not heat-treated, and thus cannot achieve the hardenability of alloy steel by adding alloys.<sup>41</sup> Thus, Domestic Producers maintained that CTL plate with small amounts of alloying elements that is considered commodity-grade steel plate has the same physical characteristics as subject CTL plate.<sup>42</sup>

#### Expectations of the Ultimate Users

Domestic Producers contended that the ultimate users purchasing the CTL plate at issue with elevated levels of alloys expect a commodity-grade, rather than a specialty alloy, product because of the way the product is represented to purchasers, and because of its price.<sup>43</sup> Also, according to Domestic Producers, information in recent administrative reviews of the Order indicating that no importers entered steel plate from the PRC into the United States as subject merchandise, supports the belief that the ultimate users of CTL plate are consuming plates with elevated levels of boron, chromium and titanium, in place of steel plate without elevated levels of boron, chromium and titanium.<sup>44</sup>

#### Use of the Merchandise

Domestic Producers argued that the product at issue is used for the same purposes as subject merchandise.<sup>45</sup> Domestic Producers claimed that adding alloys to commodity-grade steel plate has no commercial or metallurgical purpose other than to change the tariff classification in the HTSUS.<sup>46</sup> Domestic Producers stated that the CTL plate at issue with elevated alloy levels is still classified as ASTM A36 and A572 plate, and thus is not suitable

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<sup>41</sup> See First Supplemental Submission at 14, 17, 23-24.

<sup>42</sup> See Alloying Elements Circumvention BPI Memorandum at Note 6.

<sup>43</sup> See Domestic Producers' Request at 17-19 and the Alloying Elements Circumvention BPI Memorandum at Note 7.

<sup>44</sup> See Third Supplemental Submission at 7-8.

<sup>45</sup> See Domestic Producers' Request at 19-20.

<sup>46</sup> See Second Supplemental Submission at 7-8.

for additional uses beyond those of commodity-grade plate with these specifications.<sup>47</sup>

Domestic Producers also contended that the addition of elevated levels of alloying elements are only useful when steel plate is heat treated, which has a substantial cost, and PRC producers are not heat treating the steel plates at issue.<sup>48</sup> Specifically, Domestic Producers claim that commodity-grade carbon steel plate of ASTM specifications A36 and A572 is generally not heat-treated.<sup>49</sup>

#### Channels of Marketing

Domestic Producers stated that PRC producers market the CTL plate at issue in the same manner as the CTL plate without the alloying elements.<sup>50</sup> According to Domestic Producers, the CTL plate at issue and subject plate appeal to the same end users and are used for the same end uses.<sup>51</sup>

#### Cost of Modification

Domestic Producers claimed that the cost of adding only small amounts of alloying elements is small when compared to the total cost of production and total value of CTL plate.<sup>52</sup> In particular, Domestic Producers noted that the Department determined in CTL Plate from Canada that the cost of adding alloying elements is minor relative to the total value of the merchandise.<sup>53</sup> Also, as noted above, Domestic Producers contended that alloying elements are only useful when steel plate is heat treated, which has a substantial cost; however, PRC producers are not heat treating the steel plate at issue.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> See Domestic Producers' Request at 19-20.

<sup>48</sup> See First Supplemental Submission at 10-12, 15-17.

<sup>49</sup> Id. at 14, 17, 23-24; see also Alloying Elements Circumvention BPI Memorandum at Note 8.

<sup>50</sup> See Domestic Producers' Request at 20.

<sup>51</sup> Id. and Alloying Elements Circumvention BPI Memorandum at Note 9.

<sup>52</sup> See Domestic Producers' Request at 20.

<sup>53</sup> Id. at 20-21.

<sup>54</sup> See First Supplemental Submission at 10-12, 15-17.

## Conclusion

Based on the information provided by Domestic Producers, the Department finds there is sufficient basis to initiate an antidumping duty circumvention inquiry, pursuant to section 781(c) of the Act, to determine whether CTL plate from the PRC made to ASTM A36 or A572 specifications with levels of chromium or titanium above the levels identified in note (f), “Other alloy steel”, of Chapter 72 of the HTSUS involves a minor alteration to subject merchandise that is so insignificant as to render the resulting merchandise (classified as “alloy” steel under the HTSUS) subject to the Order. We also find sufficient basis to initiate an antidumping duty circumvention inquiry, pursuant to section 781(c) of the Act, to determine whether CTL plate from the PRC made to ASTM A36 or A572 specifications which contains levels of boron above the levels identified in note (f) of Chapter 72 of the HTSUS and which has not been heat treated to meet tensile and hardness requirements beyond commodity-grade ASTM specifications involves a minor alteration to subject merchandise that is so insignificant as to render the resulting merchandise (classified as “alloy” steel under the HTSUS) subject to the Order.

Although Domestic Producers requested a circumvention inquiry with respect to all of the alloying elements identified in note (f), “Other alloy steel”, of Chapter 72 of the HTSUS, we limited initiation to the alloys noted above (chromium, titanium, and boron where there was no heat treatment) based on the evidence of alleged circumvention provided. Moreover, we have not described the merchandise subject to this inquiry as steel plate marketed, priced or sold in the United States as commodity-grade carbon steel plate or made to specifications considered to be carbon steel specifications in the market because of concerns over the administrability of that language (*e.g.*, difficulties determining whether

certain prices are commodity-grade carbon steel plate prices, the lack of clarity with respect to which specifications should be considered to be carbon steel specifications). Based on the evidence of alleged circumvention provided, and Domestic Producers' statement that 80 percent of the market for commodity-grade carbon steel plate meets ASTM specifications A36 and A572, we have described the merchandise subject to this inquiry as CTL plate from the PRC made to ASTM A36 or A572 specifications. Lastly, as noted above, the Department intends to apply its circumvention ruling to all U.S. imports of CTL plate from the PRC, consistent with the recent history of this proceeding.<sup>55</sup>

Although Domestic Producers requested that the Department make a final ruling within 45 days, additional time is needed for further inquiry into Domestic Producers' allegations. The Department intends to issue its final determination within 300 days of the date of the initiation of this antidumping duty circumvention inquiry.

The Department will not order the suspension of liquidation of entries of any of the merchandise at issue at this time. However, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.225(1)(2), if the Department issues a preliminary affirmative determination, we will then instruct CBP to suspend liquidation and require a cash deposit of estimated duties, at the applicable rate, for each unliquidated entry of the merchandise at issue, entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the date of initiation of the inquiry.

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<sup>55</sup> See Wuyang Circumvention Final Determination, 76 FR at 50997.

The Department will establish a schedule for questionnaires and comments on the issues.

This notice is published in accordance with section 781(c) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.225(i).

February 10, 2016. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Paul Piquado  
Assistant Secretary  
for Enforcement and Compliance

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